



No 3 *14*

LETTER to the Right Honourable the LORD
PROVOST, the MAGISTRATES and TOWN
COUNCIL OF EDINBURGH.

*5, George-street, Edinburgh,
15th May 1821.*

My LORD & GENTLEMEN,

I take the liberty to transmit a few Testimonials, in addition to those which I have already had the honour to lay before you.

Wishing to rest my hopes of success in my application to you for the honour of being appointed to the Chair now vacant in the University, solely upon the judgment which you may be enabled to form of my qualifications to teach Medicine, by the testimony of those who have had opportunities of being acquainted with my general studies, professional pursuits, lectures, and writings, I have carefully refrained from all personal solicitation, which I should have deemed not less disrespectful to you, than unbecoming in one who is a candidate for so important a situation.

After having devoted thirty-six years of my life to the diligent study of my profession, and after having been employed for more than twenty of these years in teaching some of its branches, it is still not without feelings of diffidence, notwithstanding the warm and kind

support with which I have been honoured by my medical friends, that I offer myself as a candidate for the Chair of the Practice of Physic, when I reflect upon the responsibility which must ever attach itself to the exercise of the duties which this situation imposes, and on the talents, learning and industry of those by whom it has been successively occupied.

But should the testimonials which I have submitted to your consideration, procure for me your favourable judgment and patronage, I beg leave most respectfully to assure you, that no exertion shall ever be wanting on my part, to fulfil to the utmost of my abilities the duties which belong to the Professorship of the Practice of Physic; and that it shall be my unceasing endeavour to emulate the useful labours of those distinguished individuals, who, in holding this Chair, have brought such an accession of fame to the Medical School of Edinburgh.

I have the honour to be,

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

JOHN THOMSON, M.D.

LETTER from SIR JAMES M'GRIGOR, Director General, Army Medical Department, to the Right Honourable WILLIAM DUNDAS, M.P. and transmitted by him to the Right Honourable the LORD PROVOST of Edinburgh.

London, 19th April 1821.

SIR,

I venture to intrude upon you at this time, at the instance of Dr Thomson, Regius Professor of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, who is a candidate for the Chair of the late Dr Gregory. Dr Thomson thinks it may be of some service that my opinion of him should be known to you; and I cannot hesitate to say, that from much official intercourse with him, during the last six years, as a medical officer in the Army, I have formed the highest opinion of his learning and professional talents, as well as of his excellence as a man.

If so humble an individual as I am, could be permitted to express an opinion, I would venture to say, that this country produces few men so equal to succeed the two last illustrious men who filled the Practical Chair, and to support the credit of the University of Edinburgh, as Professor Thomson.

I again entreat that you will kindly pardon this intrusion. I remain ever,

SIR,

Your most obedient,
faithful servant.

J. M'GRIGOR.

TESTIMONIAL by WILLIAM FRANKLIN,
M.D. Principal Inspector, Army Medical
Department.

The talents and professional acquirements of Dr Thomson are so well known by his writings, and are so generally acknowledged by medical men of the highest authority, that any testimonial of mine on that head would be presumptuous; I therefore confine myself to his merits as a medical officer of the Army, in which situation, his talents and industry have been exerted much to the benefit of the service. I feel it right to add, that I believe many medical officers of the Army to have derived much information from his able instruction.

W. FRANKLIN.

London, }
1st May, 1821. }

LETTER from THEODORE GORDON, M.D.
Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, and Professional Assistant, Army Medical Board,
to Dr THOMSON.

5, *Berkely-street*,

23d April, 1821.

My dear SIR,

I am honoured by your letter of the 18th instant. Although I cannot flatter myself that the testimonial of so humble an individual as myself, can in any way contribute to the success of the object you have in view, I can assure you it is with feelings of the greatest satisfaction that I seize the occasion of expressing to you how warmly I am interested in your success, and how happy I shall feel if you obtain the honourable station, for which, by your attainments and labours in medical science, you are in my opinion so eminently qualified.

I have had the comfort and gratification of experiencing the benefit of your able counsel and advice at the bedside, on many important and trying occasions in the hospitals of the wounded at Brussels. On this subject I need only say, that as I appreciated them highly at the time, so do I still feel gratitude and complacency at the recollection of the advantages derived from your assistance and co-operation.

Known to the medical world by your publications, but more eminently perhaps distinguished by your work on Inflammation, it

scarcely can be necessary to state my opinion thereon: it bears the seal of reputation stamped upon it, I believe by the unanimous approbation of the profession.

Numerous other works on medical subjects by you, evince an equal ardour in pursuit of, and in the diffusion of medical science.

As a pupil, I should be most ungrateful did I not most fully and freely acknowledge the benefit I have derived, as well from your lectures as from your clinical observations.

The value of your professional reports to this department, you have the satisfaction of knowing, have been duly estimated by the Director General Sir James M^cGrigor, whose approbation and high commendation they have at all times elicited.

With every wish for your success, believe me to be, my Dear Sir,

Yours with the greatest esteem.

THEODORE GORDON.

LETTER from Lieutenant General SIR JOHN HOPE, late commanding the Forces in North Britain, to Dr THOMSON.

116, *George-street, Edinburgh,*
30th April, 1821.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Saturday, sending

me all the Testimonials from your different friends—principal medical practitioners—respecting your qualifications to fill the vacant Chair in the University. It would be high presumption in me to add any thing to these numerous and highly gratifying proofs of your merits as a medical officer; but yet in justice to what has come under my immediate observation, while I held the command of the troops in North Britain, I have no hesitation in saying, that your zeal and attention to the hospitals under your charge, called forth my most decided approbation; and that I firmly believe to your unremitting perseverance we at that time owed the continued healthiness of the garrison, when a very malignant fever was spreading in the town of Edinburgh. I can only conclude, by offering my wishes for your success, in obtaining the appointment you now have in view, and that you may enjoy it with every satisfaction to yourself, and benefit to the University and Public.

I have the honour to be,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient
humble Servant.

JOHN HOPE,
Lieutenant General.

LETTER from Major-General **SIR THOMAS BRADFORD**, commanding the Forces in North Britain, to Dr **THOMSON**.

Edinburgh, 2d May, 1821.

My dear SIR,

Although it might be presumption in me to give an opinion of your medical abilities, I may venture to say that I have the most perfect confidence in them myself, and I am convinced the service has derived the greatest advantage from the assiduity and diligence with which you have performed the duties of Staff Surgeon to the Forces, since my appointment has afforded me the opportunity of judging.

Wishing you every success in the object you have in view, believe me,

Your's faithfully.

T. BRADFORD.

LETTER from **J. HENNEN, M.D. F.R.S.E.** Deputy Inspector of Hospitals; late Principal Medical Officer in North Britain, and Author of 'Principles of Military Surgery,' &c. &c. &c.—to Dr **THOMSON**.

My dear SIR,

London, May, 2nd 1821.

I this morning received your letter of Saturday, and last night I for the

first time saw your printed testimonials. I have not the presumption to suppose that any addition to these honourable documents, in my power to offer, could add to a professional character so well known as yours is, or could influence in any degree the event of the pending election; but it is impossible for me to refuse you the certificate you request, especially as the substance of it has been repeatedly given in my official reports to the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, and that it is founded on a professional intercourse which, from our relative situations, has been frequent and intimate.

When I first had the pleasure of your acquaintance, at Brussels in 1815, I was struck, in common with every officer of the Staff, with the enthusiastic zeal and indefatigable attention with which you investigated the Wounds, and the Endemic, and other Diseases which at that time abounded in the Military Hospitals; and I can never forget the professional emulation which you excited among the junior officers,—the friendly and unpretending style in which you communicated information,—and the ready and available assistance which you afforded to us all. After I was placed at the head of the Medical Staff in Scotland, I had daily occasion, for three years and a half, of witnessing the same ardour and persevering industry in your practice; and your

clinical reports in the military hospitals of Edinburgh, where a great variety of interesting diseases occurred, the investigations of which—especially small-pox and syphilis—was of the highest importance to the profession and to mankind at large. The results of your observations on these, and many other scientific subjects, are before the Public; and, however individuals may differ with you in some speculative points, there can only be one opinion as to the perseverance, talents and learning which you have exhibited in all your works.

Believe me,
ever faithfully your's.

J. HENNEN.

TESTIMONIAL by JAMES MOORE, Esq.
Director of the National Vaccine Institution,
Author of the Histories of Small Pox
and Vaccination, &c. &c. &c.

*Conduit Street, London,
April 24th, 1821.*

This is to certify, that the writings of Dr Thomson, Professor in the University of Edinburgh, have impressed me with a conviction that the learned author is profoundly skilled in the Science of Medicine.

JAMES MOORE.

TESTIMONIAL by **PETER M. ROGET**,
M.D. and F.R.S.L. Secretary to the Medico
Chirurgical Society, Physician to the North-
ern Dispensary, and Consulting Physician
to the Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital.

My personal knowledge of Dr
John Thomson, and of his merits as a Lectur-
er, and my acquaintance with his valuable
medical writings, are such as fully to convince
me, that he is perfectly qualified for the im-
portant office of Professor of the Practice of
Physic in the University of Edinburgh.

P. M. ROGET, M.D.

Bernard Street,
London, April 25th, 1821.

LETTER from **CHARLES HATCHETT**, Esq.,
F.R.S.L. and E., F.L.S. Honorary Member
of the Medico Chirurgical Society, Author
of numerous Chemical Essays in the Philo-
sophical Transactions,—to Dr THOMSON.

Bellevue-House Chelsea,
April 24th, 1821.

My dear SIR,

I very sincerely wish you success,
and should be happy to promote it by every
exertion in my power, but I fear that in this
case you must take the will for the deed.

It is totally out of the question for me to give any opinion on your medical qualifications; but I cannot have any hesitation in stating my high estimation of those attainments in the science of chemistry, which I have long known you to possess.

Believe me,

My Dear SIR,

Most truly and faithfully your's.

CHARLES HATCHETT.

LETTER from **WILLIAM CLIFT, Esq.** Keeper of the Hunterian Museum,—to Dr THOMSON.

My dear SIR,

It will give me great pleasure if you succeed in obtaining the honourable situation which I hear you are soliciting in Edinburgh. From my early recollection of the diligence with which you pursued your studies at the time you were in Mr Hunter's dissecting rooms, in the year 1792, and the close examination of Mr Hunter's collection, particularly the pathological part of it, in company with our worthy friend, the late Dr F. Jones, of Barbadoes, in the year 1803, in a manner so particular as had never till that time been done by any visitor, and indeed not frequently since, except by our Professors. it appeared to me, that you were pursuing your professional inquiries in the

right way, by careful examination and observation, as Mr Hunter had done before, and by which he obtained that acknowledged superiority which now sustains his name, I may say with universal consent, and as the true path to that knowledge which will bear the test of time, and remain permanently useful; for whoever pursues his steps, and endeavours to make as careful deductions, must, in my humble opinion, be the most likely to attain the same beneficial result.

With best wishes for your health, and wishing you success,

I remain, dear SIR,
Your's truly.

WM CLIFT.

*College of Surgeons,
Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London,
April 24th, 1821.*

LETTER from JOSHUA BROOKES, Esq.,
Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology,
&c. &c. &c. London, to Dr THOMSON.

*Theatre of Anatomy,
Blenheim Street,
1st May, 1821.*

My dear DOCTOR,

I felt great pleasure in hearing that you are a candidate for the Professorial Chair

at Edinburgh, vacant by the demise of that illustrious man Dr Gregory, in whose company I had the honour of dining about this time last year,

The loss to science, however, allow me to say, cannot be in any way felt, should the members of the University shew their acumen, by electing a successor of whose universal pathological knowledge, the several times you have honoured me with a visit when in London afforded me ample proof, as well as great information.

Nor indeed was I so fully aware of the rarity of some morbid preparations in my Museum, until your scientific eye displayed their peculiarities.

I could, and certainly should say on this occasion much more, were it not likely to be fulsome to your feelings, although simply uttering the truth.

But permit me further to observe, that if genuine merit and cultivated science rest on their own basis, the vacant Professorial Chair seems destined for you.

With every hope of success,

I remain, my dear Doctor,

Your's every faithfully.

JOSHUA BROOKES.

LETTER from DVAID MACLAGAN, M.D.
Physician to the Forces, Surgeon to the
New Town Dispensary, &c. &c. to Dr
THOMSON.

22. George Street, Edinburgh,

My dear SIR, *1st May 1821.*

I am requested by those pupils and friends at whose desire your portrait was painted and engraved, to present the original picture to you and your family, in testimony of their respect for your talents and usefulness as a public teacher, and of their esteem and regard for your private character. Having been one of your earliest pupils, and so long acquainted with your habits and pursuits, I fulfil this duty with greater pleasure than I can well express. Your unremitting and successful cultivation of all the sciences connected with Medicine, the ability and candour with which you communicate the knowledge you have acquired, and the skill and humanity with which you apply it to the practice of our profession, have long been objects of my admiration and respect, as they must ever be of those who enjoy the benefit of your public instructions, are familiar with your writings, or have the pleasure and advantage of your private society and advice. It is indeed most gratifying to all your friends, that your name and works are so well known, and so justly valued in England, and on the Continent, as well as in this country, and by individuals,

whose character and attainments in science and literature render their approbation and praise truly valuable.

With earnest wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and of your family,

I am, with respect and esteem,

Your's very sincerely.

DAVID MACLAGAN.

LETTER from **J. HENRY DAVIDSON, M.D.**
F.R.S.E. Physician to the Royal Public
Dispensary,—to the Right Honourable the
LORD PROVOST of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh, May 1st, 1821.

My LORD,

I should not have presumed to to have addressed your Lordship at present, if Dr Thomson had not done me the honour of requesting that I should state to your Lordship what I know as to his claims for being appointed to the Medical Chair vacated by the death of Dr Gregory.—Whilst I with pleasure yield to Dr Thomson's desire, I hope your Lordship will not think I have the vanity to express any opinion concerning his merits:—or that this letter contains any thing but a plain unvarnished account of what has come within my own knowledge.

It is now fifteen years since I first became acquainted with Dr Thomson, as one of his pupils; and if at this time I know any thing o

medical surgery, I should be ungrateful if I did not acknowledge that I am indebted for my acquaintance with that most extensive and most important department of medicine, to the instructions I received when attending his lectures. As these lectures have been my guide in prosecuting the study of the multifarious subjects contained in them, and as I cannot accuse myself of indolence in pursuing the plan which they pointed out, I feel myself justified in saying, that they contained a vast variety of useful information, and a most luminous detail of ancient and modern experience, whilst I recollect that the enthusiasm which Dr Thomson instilled into his pupils by his mode of teaching, made them not only attentive listeners, but stimulated them to the ardent study of the science into the principles of which they were initiated. When I say that Dr Thomson is the the most learned physician I ever met with, I know that I am quite safe from any appearance of exaggeration, because I have heard the same language employed by many medical men in England, and by all those foreigners with whom he became acquainted during his professional tour on the Continent. It is not only in medicine, and its immediate branches, that Dr Thomson has a most remarkable degree of knowledge ;—no one I am certain can have conversed with or consulted him upon the actual state or previous history of Chemistry, Botany, Mathematics, or General Philosophy, without being surprised at the extent and ac-

curacy of his information, which can have been acquired only by a devotion of time and attention to laborious study seldom found, and but little expected in an individual engaged as Dr Thomson has been in an anxious and fatiguing profession.

When I was on the Continent, I found that Dr Thomson's celebrated work on Inflammation had rendered his name familiar in Paris and Geneva; and the favourable mention which has since been made of it, in the *Dictionnaire des Sciences Medicales*, and other publications, proves the estimation in which these Lectures are held by French practitioners.—In Germany, these lectures have been translated, and have been justly styled, in the preface, the most valuable contribution lately made to the Medical World:—and in Italy, where English medicine and surgery are not so generally known as in Germany, or even in France, a translation was commenced when I was in that country two years ago.—I have thus, my Lord, done what I conceived to be my duty towards Dr Thomson; and whilst I request pardon for the liberty I have taken in addressing your Lordship, I should also apologize for the prevalent egotism, if the nature of the communication had not rendered this inevitable. I remain,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant.

J. HENRY DAVIDSON.

EXTRACT from the Preface to the German translation of Dr THOMSON'S Lectures on Inflammation by Dr KRUKENBERG, Professor of Medicine at the united University of Halle and Wittemberg.—*Halle*, 1820.

(*Translation.*)

The Lectures on Inflammation, exhibiting a view of the general doctrines, pathological and practical, of Medical Surgery, by John Thomson, Professor of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, 1813, form one of the most valuable contributions, which have been made in modern times to medical literature. The doctrine of Inflammation, a subject as important as it is difficult, is here treated with great solidity, knowledge of the subject, acuteness and truth; numerous important remarks upon scrophula, hæmorrhage, the ligature of arteries, healing of wounds, &c. are interspersed in the investigation; so that no reflecting physician can study this work without deriving from it great instruction, and without great esteem for its celebrated author. Works like this are rare, where it becomes a question, whether to admire more the extent of the learning and the acuteness of the author, or the candour and love of truth with which he has pointed out so many subjects, still doubtful and obscure, and which, therefore, require further accurate investigation.

LETTER from Dr **BENEDETTO BAROZZI**, of
Pavia, to Dr **THOMSON**.

(Translation.)

Most excellent PROFESSOR,

Your important doctrines known and followed by the learned Italians, are yet known by report chiefly to the greater number of us, for want I believe of a translation, which might render them completely familiar even to the least informed. On this account, desirous to procure for my country such an advantage, I have begun to translate your excellent Lectures on Inflammation. Not wishing to fail in the respect due to you, and anxious that the translation may come before the public in the manner most conducive to your fame, and to the benefit of society, I entreat that you will be pleased to furnish, or to point out to me, any information that might enlarge or correct it. In the expectation of which,—I remain

Your admirer.

Pavia, Dr **BENEDETTO BAROZZI**.
15th April, 1819.

EXTRACT from a Review of Dr **THOMSON**'s
Work on Varioloid Diseases, in the London
Medical Repository, No. LXXIV, for Feb-
ruary 1820.

The profession at large are certainly much indebted to Dr Thomson for the pains he has bestowed in investigating the subject,

and for the immense mass of facts he has accumulated. We lay aside for the present all consideration of the merits and demerits of the particular hypothesis which he espouses, and must frankly confess, that the author has shewn himself to be an indefatigable observer, and a candid reasoner. He publishes his cases in detail, and enables the reader to judge for himself. He throws no veil over the statement of those who differ from him in opinion, but places their arguments and objections in a prominent part of his volume, and either allows them their full weight, or urges his reasons in reply.

EXTRACT from the Review of Dr THOMSON'S Work on Varioloid Diseases, in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, No. LXIII, for April 1820.

This work has many claims on our attention, not merely on account of the distinguished character of its author, and the novelty and ingenuity of the views it contains, but also, because it is the most comprehensive and authentic record of the observations that have been made on the late epidemic small-pox in this country. The zeal and industry with which these observations have been prosecuted, and the candour with which several

of the conclusions resulting from them have been admitted, even when at variance with preconceived opinions, have been highly creditable to the practitioners in this part of the country; and, if they have not disclosed facts hitherto unknown, they have at least illustrated so fully the frequency of occurrences, hitherto considered as anomalous, that they may fairly be said to have added considerably to our knowledge of the disease.

EXTRACTS from a **REVIEW** of **Dr THOMSON'S** Work on Varioloid Diseases in the *Medicinisch-chirurgische Zeitung*, for September 1820, by the late **Dr ALBERS** of Bremen.

(Translation.)

The medical public of Germany have lately been in no small degree alarmed by reports from England, which have brought into doubt the protecting power of cow-pock against small-pox. It must therefore be highly important for those who have at heart the advancement of the art, to be informed whether these reports are true, or are to be regarded as the delusions of unskilful physicians and surgeons. Those writings which the best English physicians publish upon the small-pox epidemic that is prevailing there, must therefore be important to the readers of our journal;

and they may feel obliged to us for making them acquainted with the work of a man, certainly very honourably known as a physician of knowledge and experience, who treats of this subject.

* * * * *

Before concluding, the reviewer may remark, that he has not lately read any work with so much interest as that of the author. The idea of the identity of the small-pox virus with that of chicken-pox, is original, but still requires in his opinion mature observations before it can be received as a truth: Much may be said for it, but there is much also which openly opposes it; and it is only with great labour, assisted by favourable opportunities, that the point can be properly determined. With regard to vaccination, which has lately been so severely attacked, the value of this practice suffers no injury from the work of the author; on the contrary, its cause is powerfully supported by him. Even should the hypothesis of the author prove incorrect, vaccination will still maintain its almost universally acknowledged value.

LETTER from ASTLEY COOPER, Esq. Surgeon
to Guy's Hospital, to Dr THOMSON.

My Dear SIR,

I thank you for your kind present (work on varioloid diseases) which I have read with great pleasure. It is ably written, and the style is at once nervous, clear, and easy.

I have only one fault to find with you. Your opinion ought not have been called an *hypothesis*, because it is really a well founded and legitimate *theory*, deduced from patient observation, and proved, as far as time and history permit, by concurrent testimony. Hypothesis, from you, would give dignity to a term which ought to be exploded from all medical reasoning, as nothing but induction of principles from facts ought for an instant to be admitted as science in our profession. If your's be not a theory, and a good theory, I know not what it is.

Your work also contains a great deal of original matter, as well as new ideas, and must add great respectability to a character already deservedly ranking so high in the medical world.—I am

Your very truly obliged,

ASTLEY COOPER.

London, 19th February 1820.

LETTER from C. YELLOLY, M.D. F.R.S.
late Secretary to the Medico Chirurgical
Society, Physician to the Duke of Gloucester,
&c. &c. &c.—to the Right Honourable
the LORD PROVOST of Edinburgh.

Carrow Abbey, Norwich,

My LORD,

April 25th, 1821.

Having been requested by my friend Dr Thomson of Edinburgh, to state to you my sentiments as to his qualifications for the Chair of the Practice of Physic, vacant in the University of Edinburgh, I beg leave to inform you, that I have had the pleasure of Dr Thomson's acquaintance for more than 25 years, and that I have always considered him as very eminently distinguished for his comprehensive and accurate knowledge of all the branches of medical science.

Dr Thomson has carried with him into practice all the ardour of the student; and, in his mature age, continues to prosecute the studies and pursuits of his profession with a zeal and energy of which there are very few examples. He has a genuine attachment to his profession; and, should he be elected to the high and honourable situation of successor to the late Dr Gregory, he will, I am sure, do every thing for the credit of the University, which talents, learning, extensive acquaintance with his subject, and unwearied assiduity, can effect.

I have the honour to be, with much respect,

Your LORDSHIP'S

Most obedient humble servant.

C. YELLOLY, M.D.

LETTER from HENRY IRWIN, M.D. Deputy
Inspector of Hospitals,—to Dr THOMSON.

Sligo, 1st May, 1821.

My dear SIR,

Although long and intimate knowledge of your merits have impressed me with the highest respect for them, yet I would be very unwilling to offer any testimonial of mine, when your professional abilities are so generally acknowledged, lest it should be considered as presumption, were it not, that I had two opportunities of peculiarly estimating your professional talents; the first, after the battle of Waterloo at Brussels, where I knew you to be consulted on every case of moment, and where you never failed to convey the most satisfactory information and useful advice, both as Physician and Surgeon, which your judgment and research so qualified you to communicate. The second was, when I served as Principal Medical Officer in North Britain, at which time, I experienced, on all occasions, the most valuable professional assistance from you, but especially as regarded the Hospital Establishment, under your immediate charge, where I was in the habit of sending the worst cases of disease from the other Military Hospitals in Scotland. On these occasions, I constantly observed, and I trust with advantage to myself, the powerful resources of your

mind in directing medical expedients for the alleviation of disorders, that in many instances might be considered beyond the reach of art.

I have only to add, that, aware of your qualifications for the situation you look to, and of the advantage that the Public would derive from your appointment to the Chair of Professor of Medicine, I most sincerely wish you success, as I consider it would be a public as well as private advantage.

Believe me, dear SIR,

with the highest respect and esteem,

Your's very truly.

HENRY IRWIN, M.D.

LETTER from J. E. HEADLAM, M.D.
Senior Physician to the Newcastle Infirmary,—to the Right Honourable JOHN MANDERSTON, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Newcastle, 10th May, 1821.

My LORD,

I beg leave to offer to your Lordship my testimonial of Dr Thomson's great qualifications for the Chair of the Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, now vacant by the death of the late eminent Professor, Dr Gregory.

During an intimate acquaintance with Dr Thomson for twenty-four years, I have had very frequent opportunities of witnessing the

industry, the zeal and the success, with which he has devoted himself to the study of every subject connected with the practice of Medicine and Surgery. I have also had frequent occasions, in the course of my private practice, to refer cases of great importance or obscurity to Dr Thomson's consideration, in which I have had the most decisive proofs of his profound knowledge and accurate discrimination of diseases, which led to very successful treatment. It is important, moreover, to add, that his reputation through the Empire has been raised to great eminence, by a work which he published upon Inflammation, and by other valuable essays, and also by his public Lectures on Surgery.

For these reasons I humbly submit to your Lordship, that the appointment of Dr Thomson to the Professorship of the Practice of Physic, would be calculated to advance the interest of science, to uphold the honour, and to support the high character of the University of Edinburgh.

I have the honour to be, my LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant.

J. E. HEADLAM, M.D.

LETTER from SIR MATTHEW J. TIERNEY,
Bart. Physician in Ordinary to the KING,
&c. &c. &c.—to Dr THOMSON.

My dear SIR,

Although many years have elapsed since I had the pleasure of your acquaintance in Edinburgh, I have not forgotten the zeal, industry and ability with which you have so successfully cultivated the various branches of your profession. Your career since, has not passed unnoticed by me ; and I may with perfect confidence add, that, in my opinion, your lectures, writings, and practical experience, have essentially advanced the improvements in our Art.

My personal acquaintance with the late lamented Dr Gregory, as well as my knowledge of his transcendent talents, and peculiar qualifications as a teacher, make me aware it is no easy matter to replace him in your University. Should my humble testimony, however, contribute in the smallest degree to the success of your views, believe me I offer it solely on the principle that I consider your practical, as well as general information, qualify you most fully to uphold the high character of your University.

With sincere esteem, I am,

My dear SIR,

Your very faithful

M. J. TIERNEY.

46. *Dover Street*,
9. *May* 1821. }

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